

IDW

45

COVER A

SONIC

TM

THE HEDGEHOG



STANLEY • FROESE • GRAHAM

SEGA®



STORY & ART
EVAN STANLEY

INKS
MATT FROESE

COLORS
REGGIE GRAHAM

LETTERS
SHAWN LEE

ASSISTANT EDITOR
RILEY FARMER

EDITOR
DAVID MARIOTTE

Special thanks to Mai Kiyotaki, Michael Cisneros, Sandra Jo, Sonic Team, and everyone at Sega for their invaluable assistance.



For international rights, contact licensing@idwpublishing.com

IDW[®]
www.IDWPUBLISHING.com

Nachie Marsham, Publisher • Blake Kobashigawa, VP of Sales • Tara McCrillis, VP Publishing Operations • John Barber, Editor-in-Chief • Mark Doyle, Editorial Director, Originals • Lauren LePera, Managing Editor • Joe Hughes, Director, Talent Relations • Anna Morrow, Sr. Marketing Director • Keith Davidsen, Director, Marketing & PR • Topher Alford, Sr. Digital Marketing Manager • Shauna Monteforte, Sr. Director of Manufacturing Operations • Jamie Miller, Sr. Operations Manager • Nathan Widick, Sr. Art Director, Head of Design • Neil Uyetake, Sr. Art Director, Design & Production • Shawn Lee, Art Director, Design & Production • Jack Rivera, Art Director, Marketing
Ted Adams and Robbie Robbins, IDW Founders



Facebook: facebook.com/idwpublishing • Twitter: [@idwpublishing](https://twitter.com/idwpublishing)
YouTube: youtube.com/idwpublishing • Instagram: [@idwpublishing](https://instagram.com/idwpublishing)



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #45. SEPTEMBER 2021. ©SEGA. All rights reserved. SEGA is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. SEGA and SONIC THE HEDGEHOG are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION. © 2021 Idea and Design Works, LLC. All Rights Reserved. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 2765 Truxtun Road, San Diego, CA 92106. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

STORY SO FAR

I'M NOT LEADING THE RESTORATION ANYMORE.

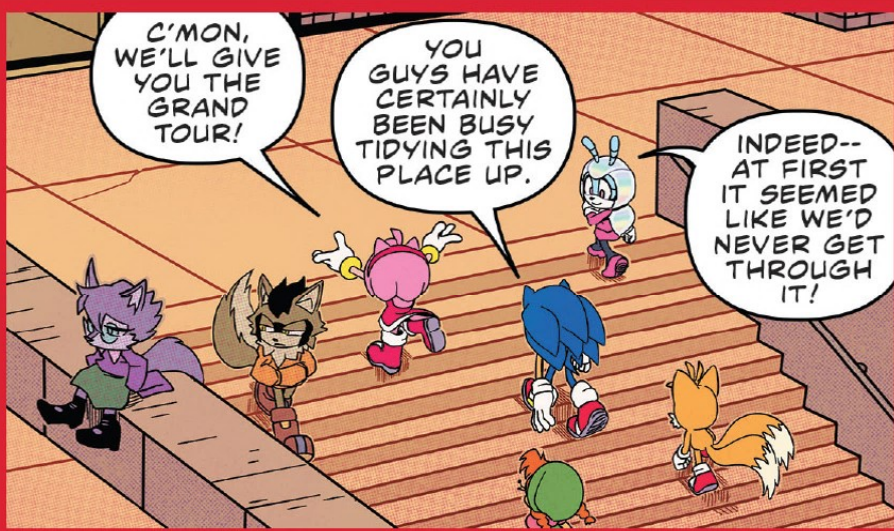
I PASSED IT OFF TO JEWEL.



C'MON, WE'LL GIVE YOU THE GRAND TOUR!

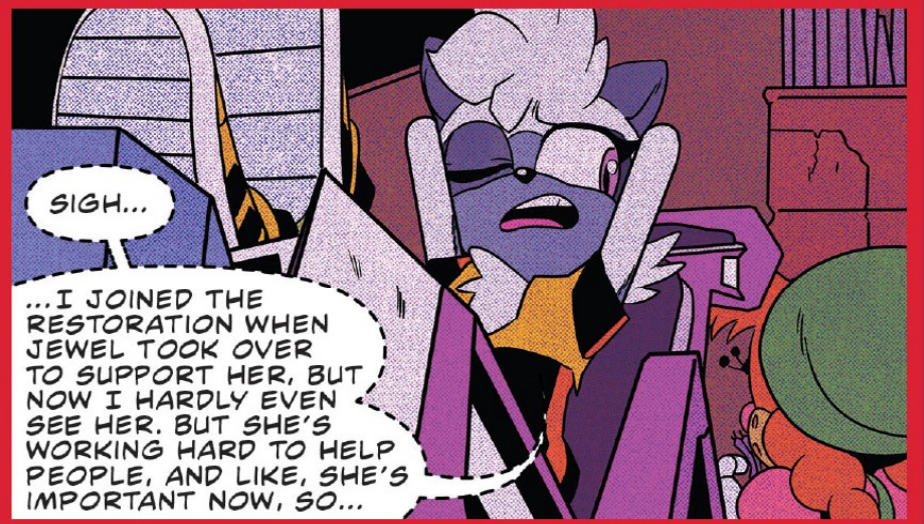
YOU GUYS HAVE CERTAINLY BEEN BUSY TIDYING THIS PLACE UP.

INDEED-- AT FIRST IT SEEMED LIKE WE'D NEVER GET THROUGH IT!



SIGH...

...I JOINED THE RESTORATION WHEN JEWEL TOOK OVER TO SUPPORT HER, BUT NOW I HARDLY EVEN SEE HER. BUT SHE'S WORKING HARD TO HELP PEOPLE, AND LIKE, SHE'S IMPORTANT NOW, SO...



I WASN'T SURE BEFORE, BUT THIS PROVES IT. WHATEVER I WAS BUILT WITH, INSIDE... IT'S THE SAME AS THEM.

I AM A *BADNIK*.

BUT I... I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE. I JUST NEED ANSWERS. AND THE ONLY PERSON WHO WOULD KNOW IS DR. EGGMAN.



I WAS BUILT BY A MAN NAMED MR. TINKER. SONIC, YOU SAVED HIM ONCE.*

WHEN HE DISAPPEARED, PEOPLE TOLD ME HE'D BEEN A MONSTER ALL ALONG... THAT HE WAS DR. EGGMAN. I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT. I COULDN'T.

I THOUGHT THAT IF I COULD JUST... COULD JUST TALK TO HIM, HE'D UNDERSTAND, A-AND EXPLAIN, AND--





SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

The Blue Blur.
Fastest Thing Alive.



MILES "TAILS" PROWER

Tech-savvy Sidekick.
High-flying genius.



BELLE THE TINKERER

Clumsy Marionette.
Enthusiastic new-comer.



JEWEL THE BEETLE

Crystal Curator.
Tangle's best friend.



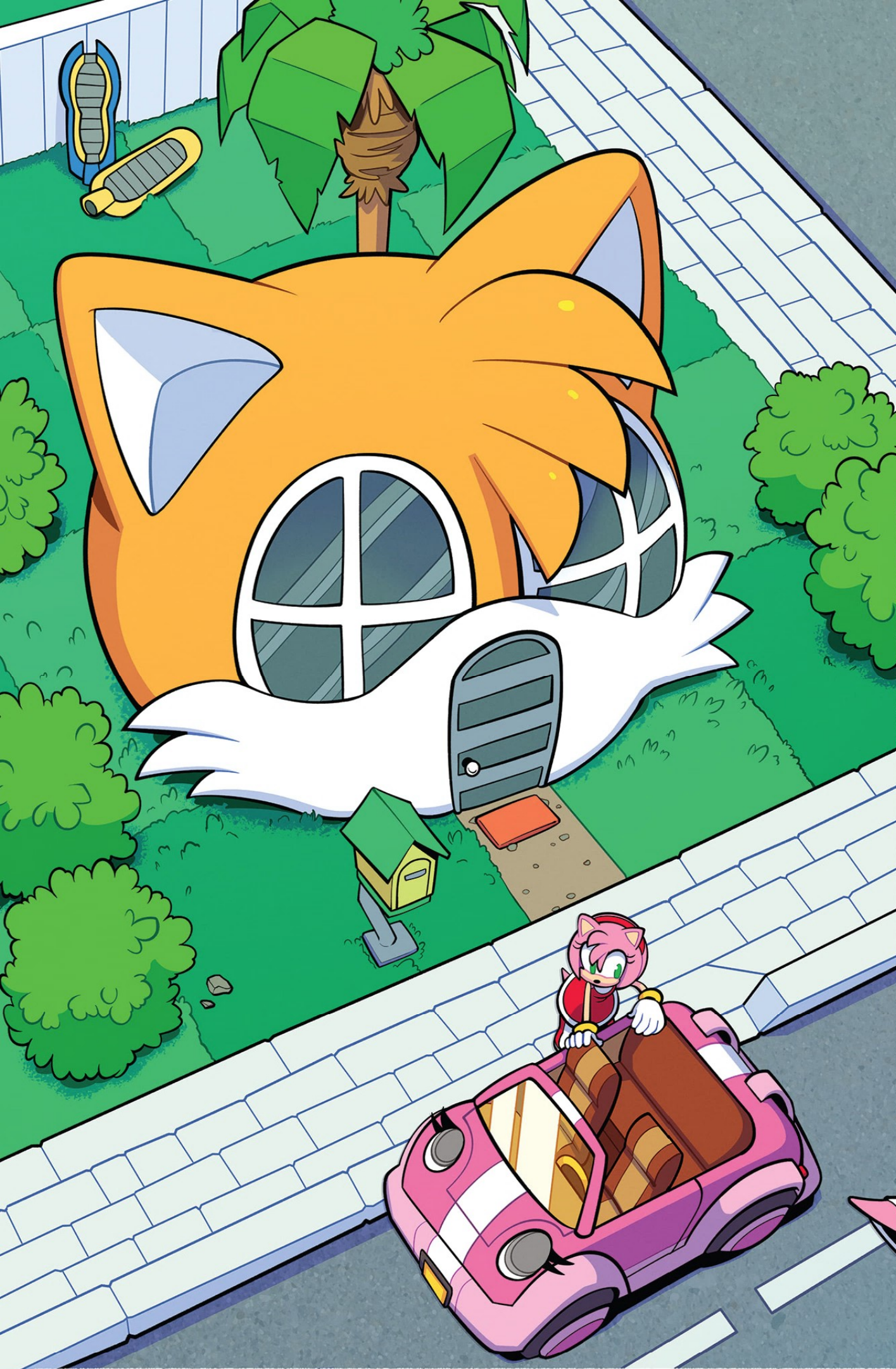
AMY ROSE

Hammer-swinging Heroine.
Restoration ally.

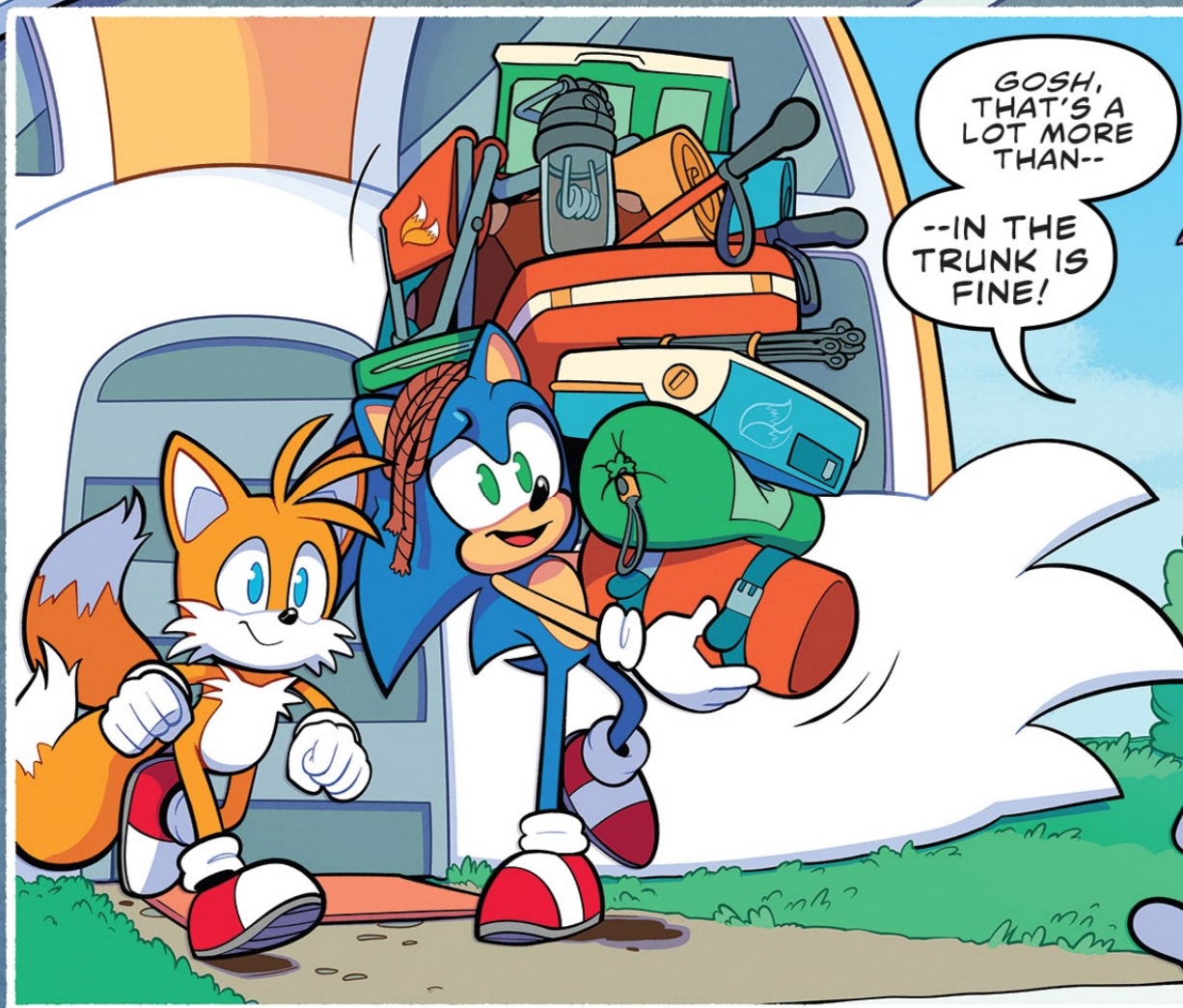


TANGLE THE LEMUR

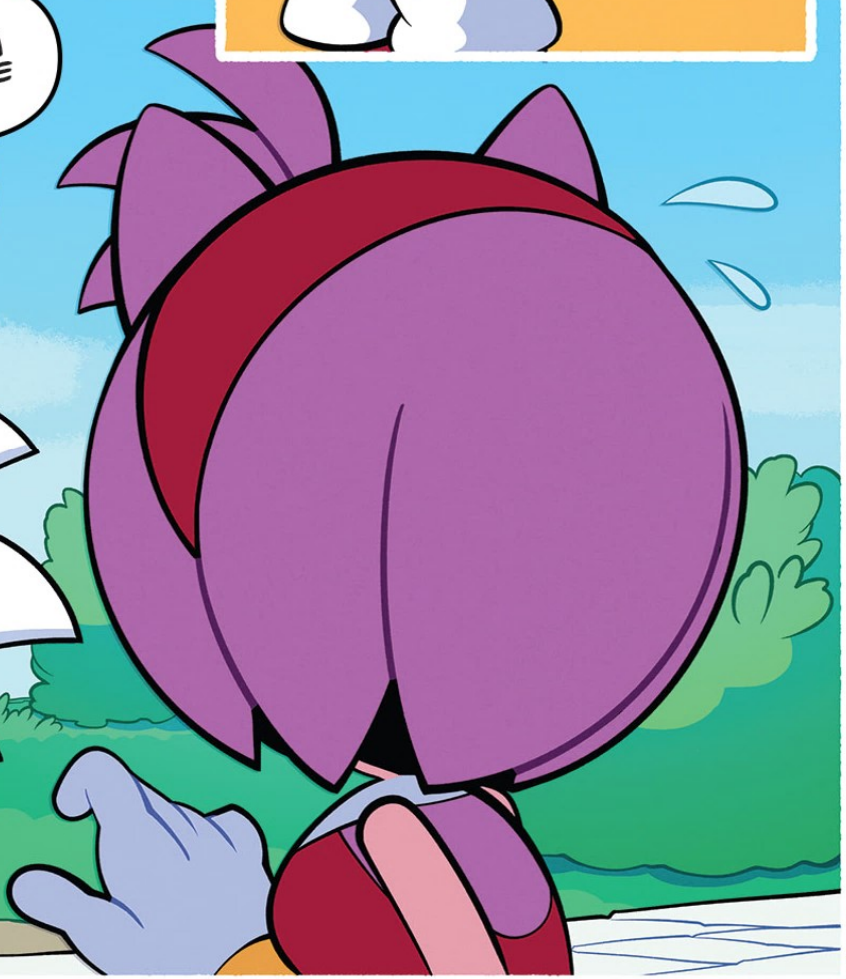
Excitable Hero.
Elastic-tailed brawler.

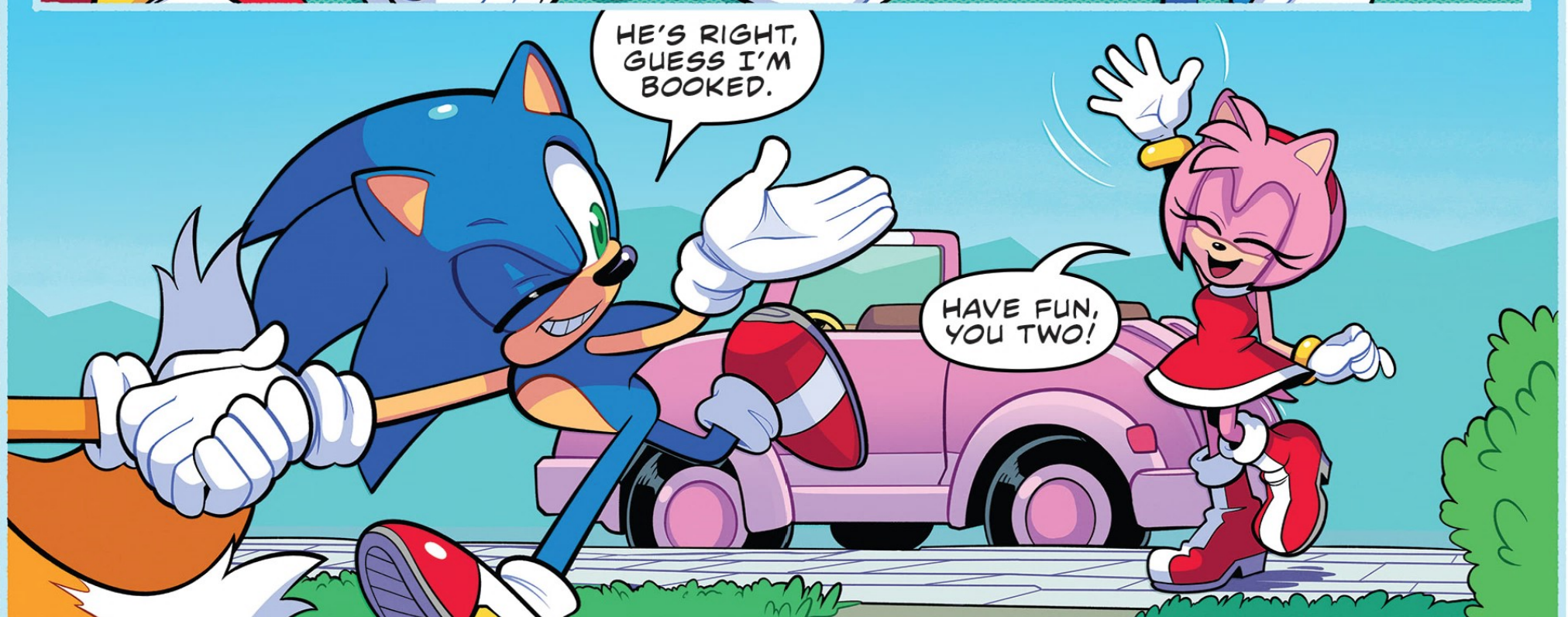
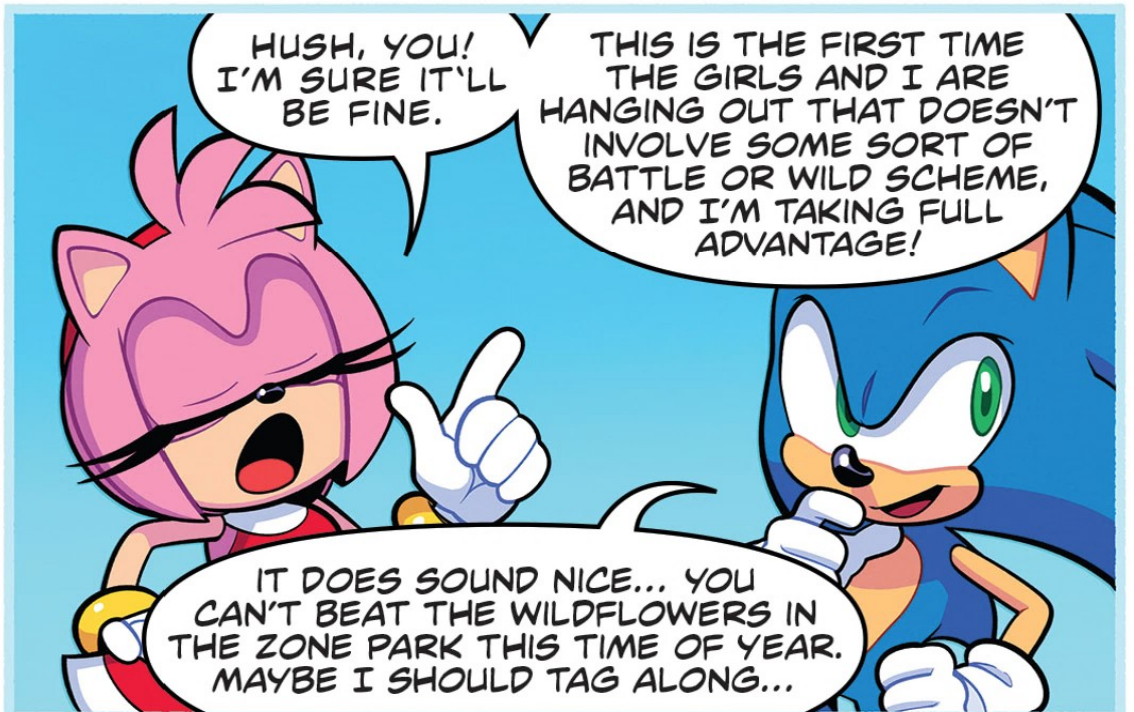
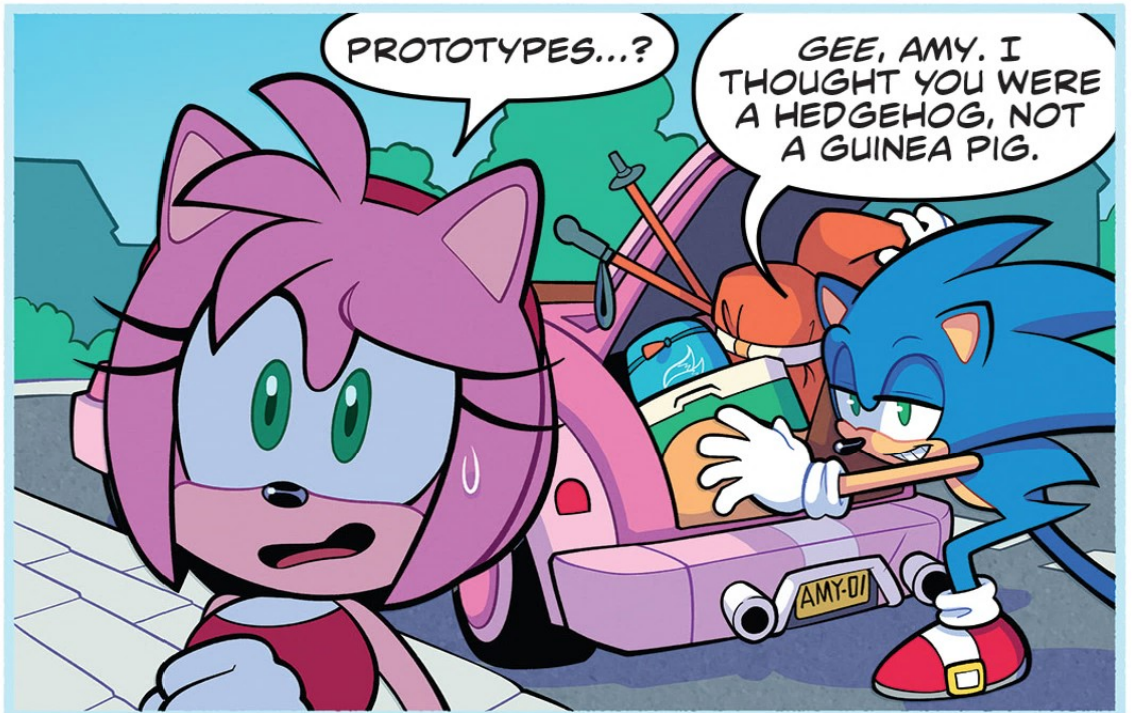
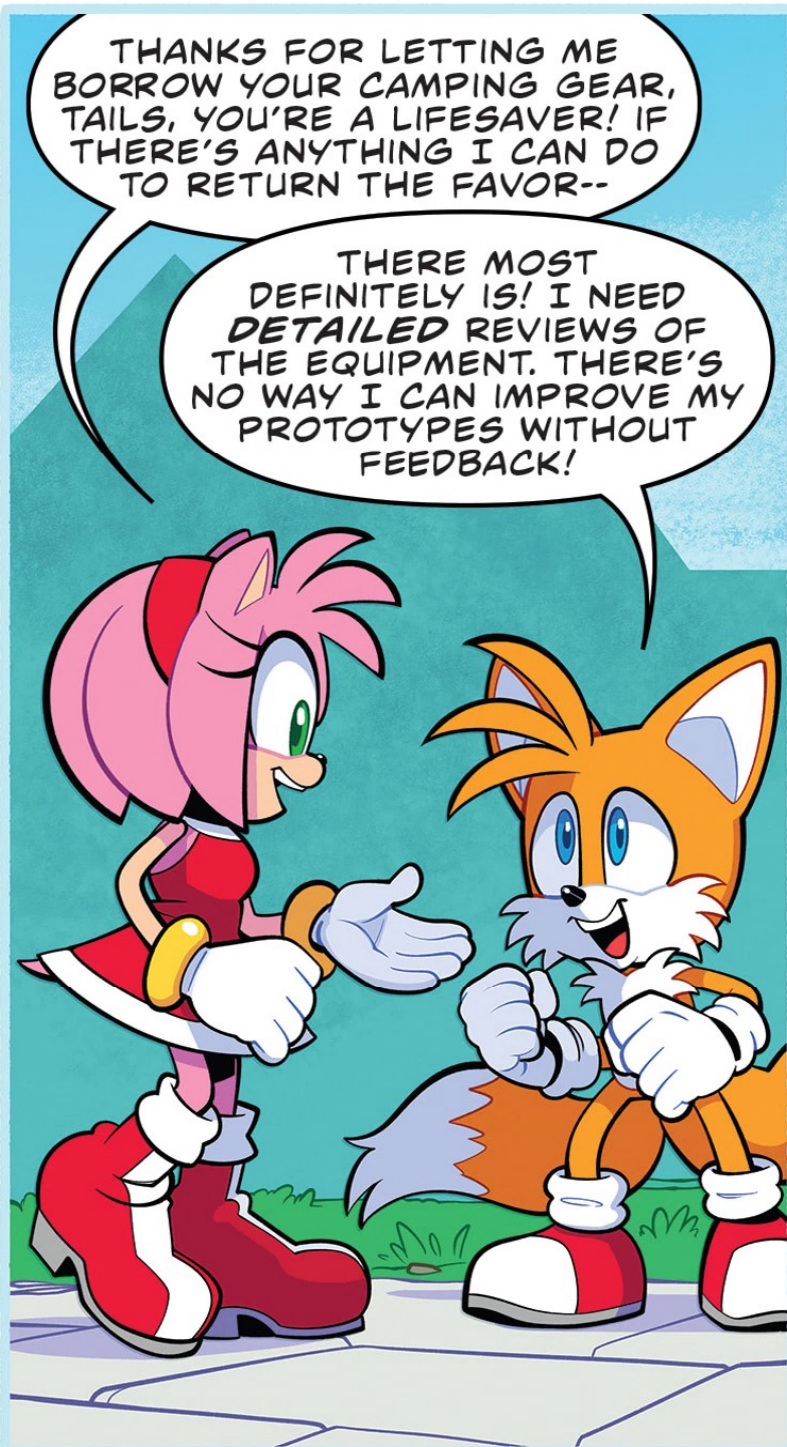


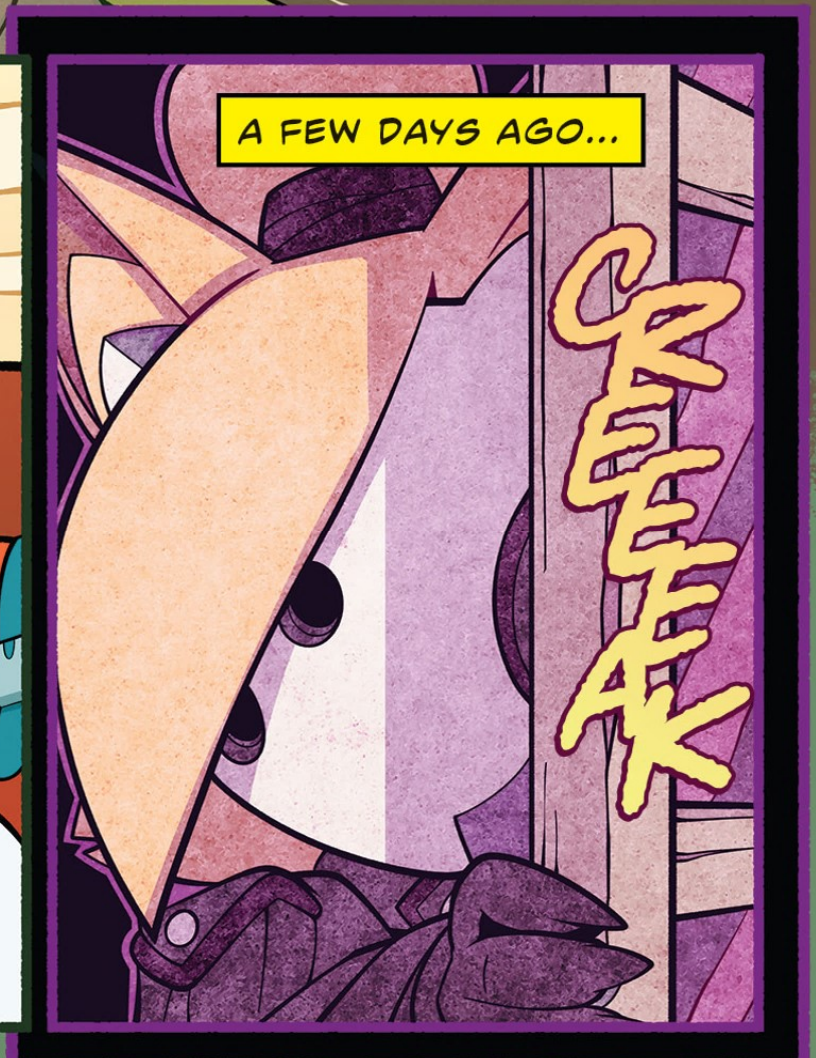
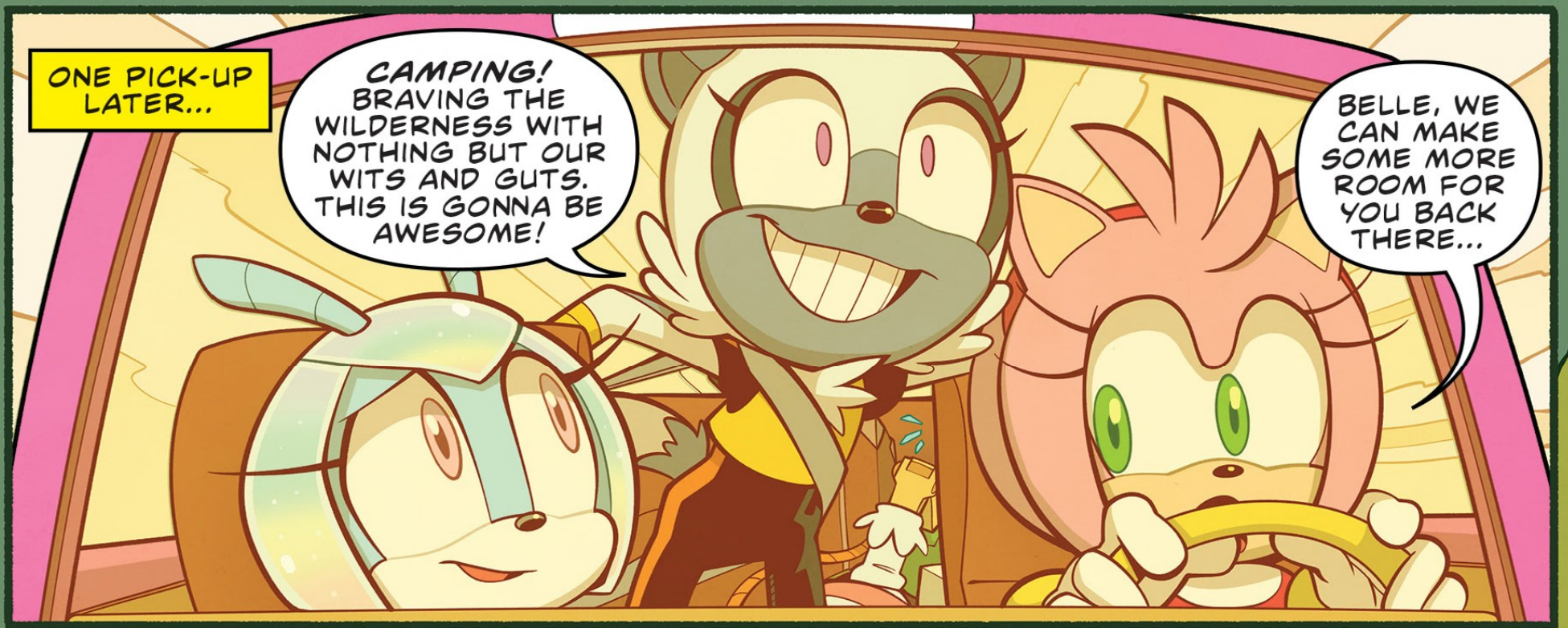
HEY,
AMY! WHERE
DO YOU WANT
THIS STUFF?

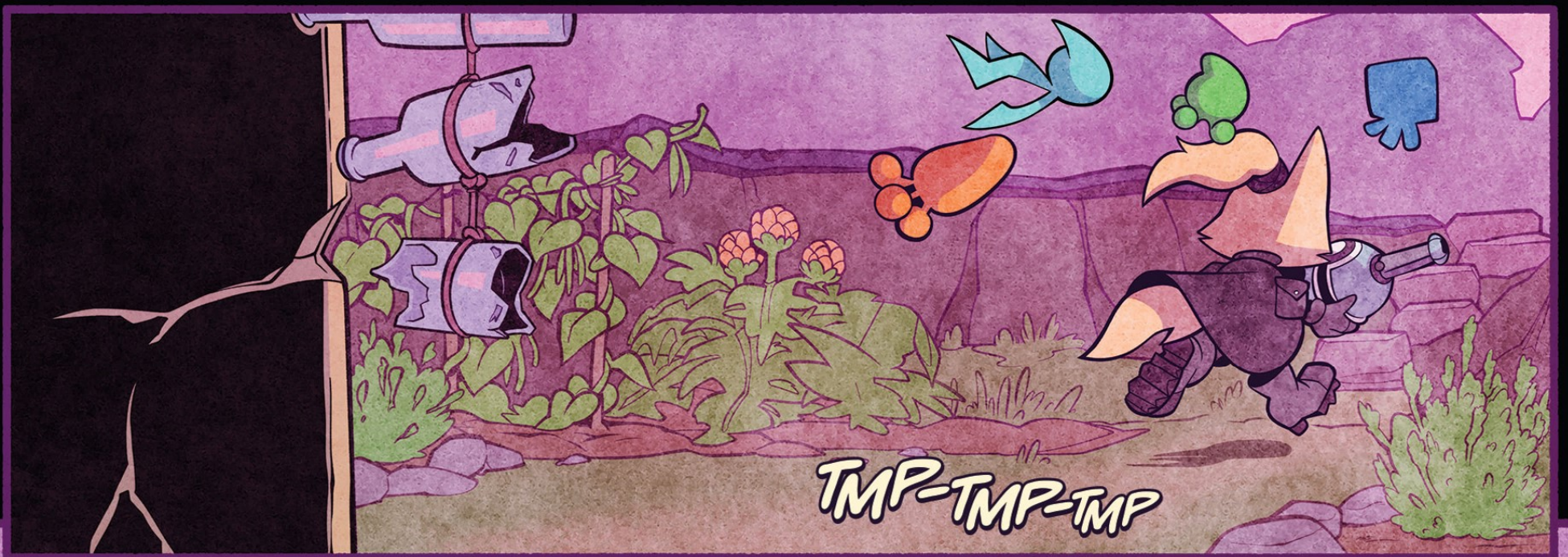


GOSH,
THAT'S A
LOT MORE
THAN--
--IN THE
TRUNK IS
FINE!



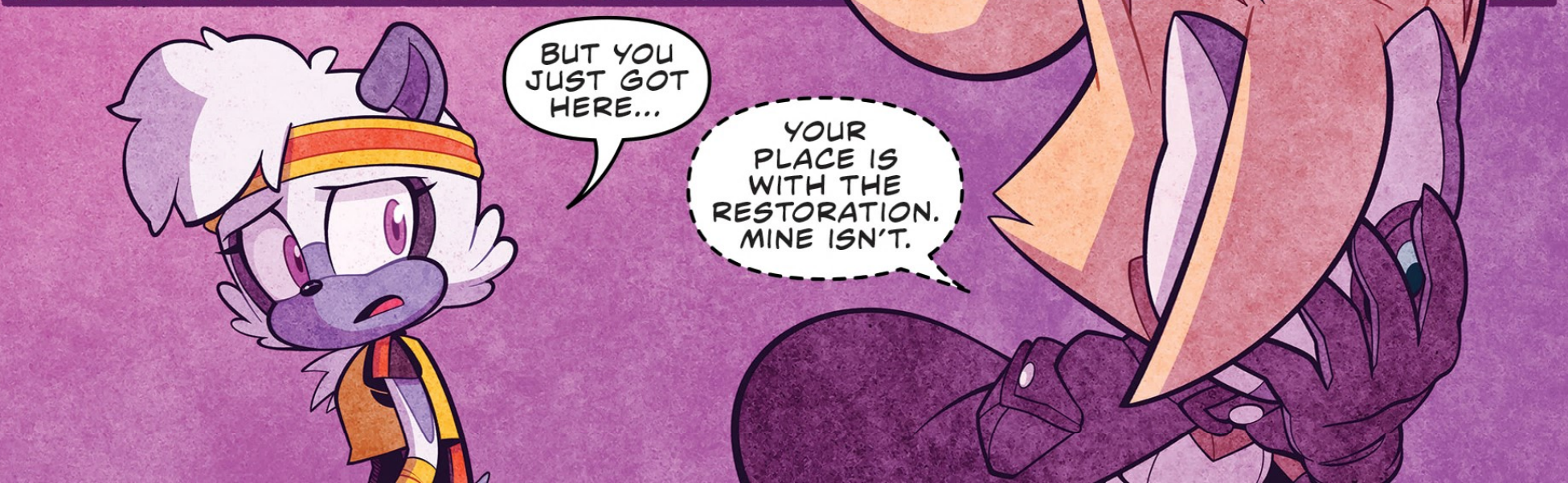
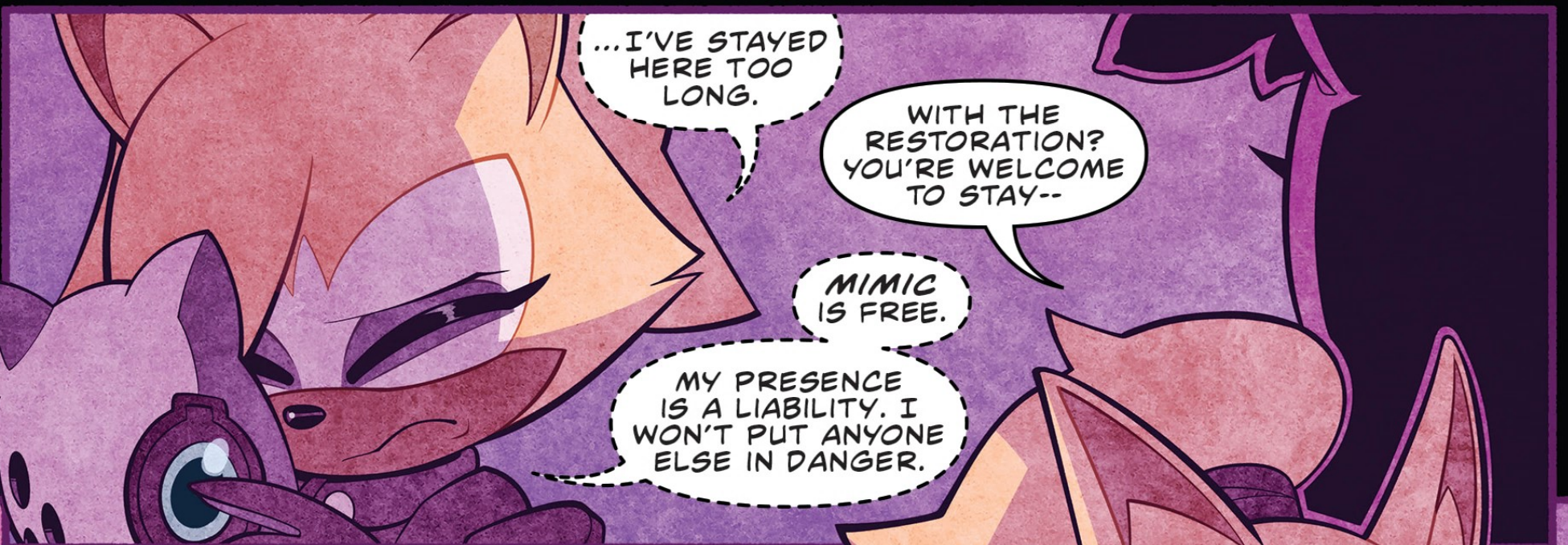
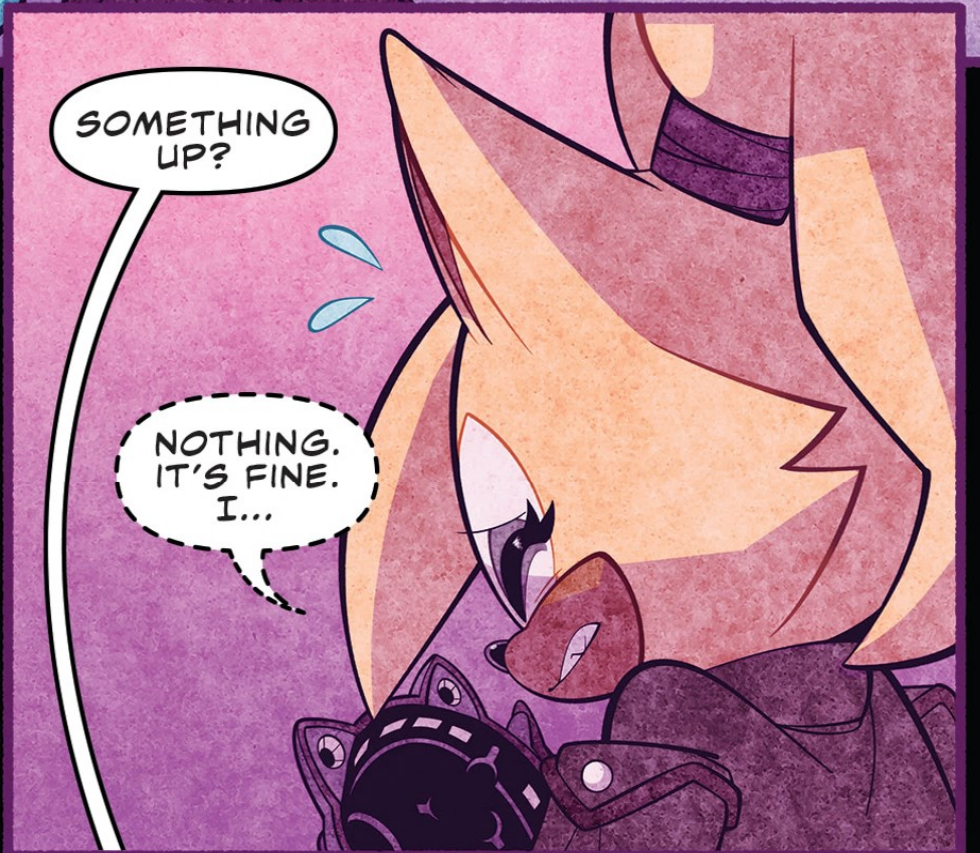


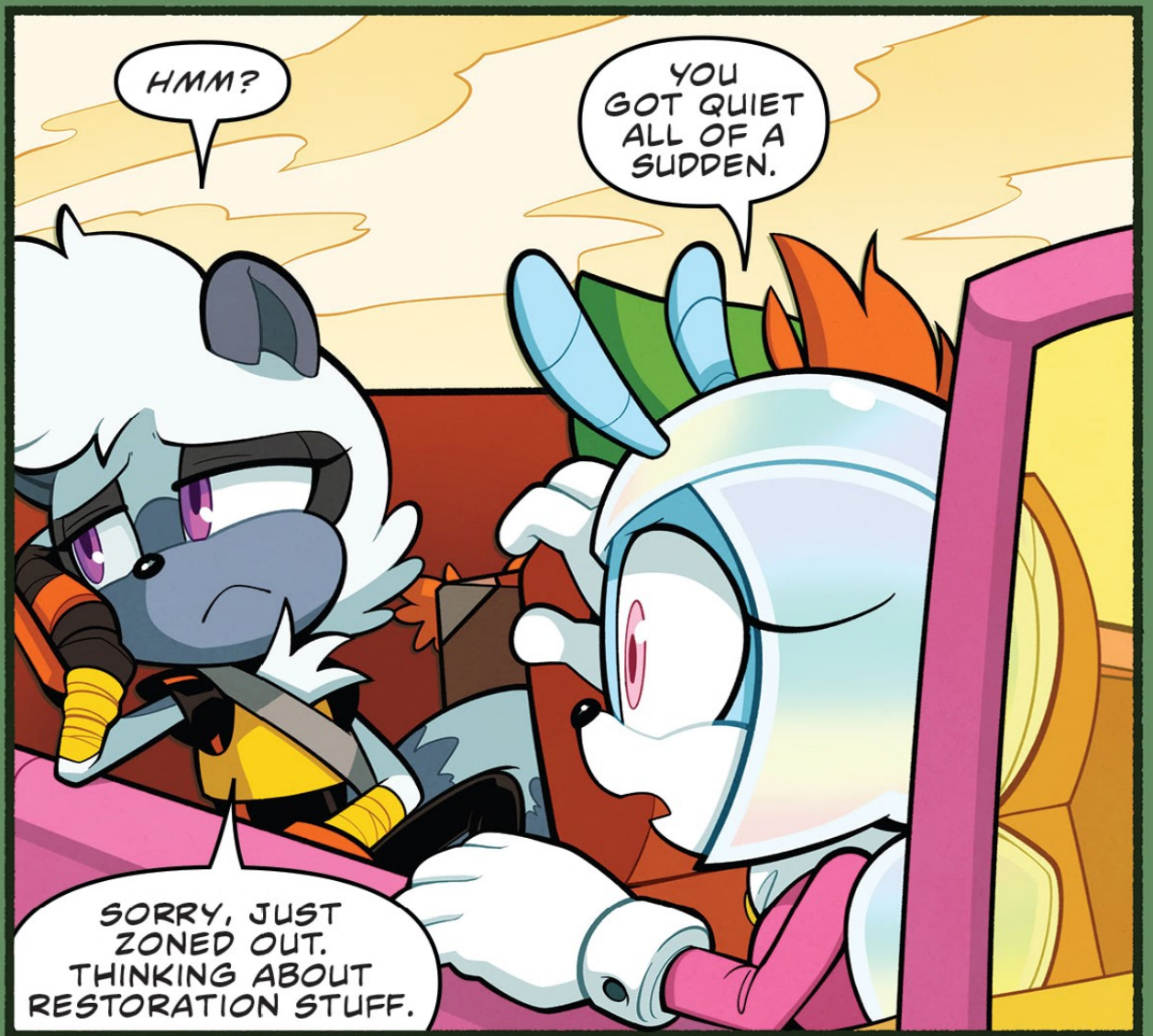


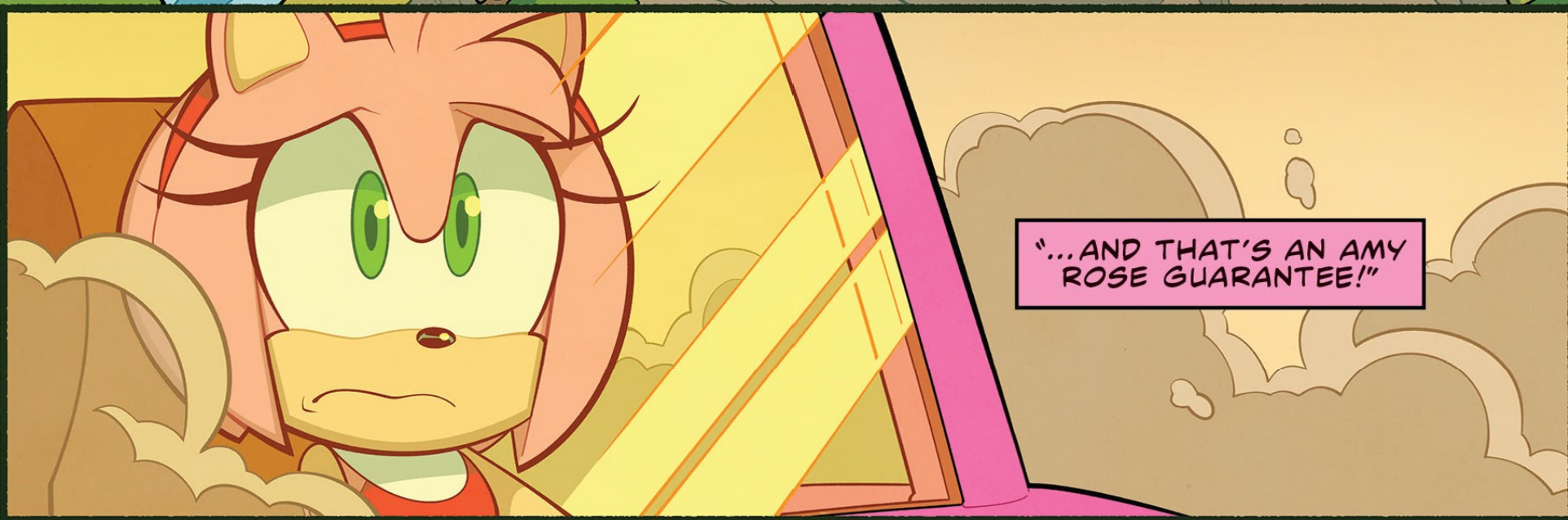


...

IT'S FOR THE BEST.







"...AND THAT'S AN AMY ROSE GUARANTEE!"



THAT'S JUST PROOF THAT IT'S AN A+ CAMPGROUND!

IT LOOKS AWFULLY BUSY.

FOREST RIDGE ZONE CAMPGROUND



MORE CAMPERS?

WE'VE GOT A RESERVATION FOR SITE #97?

GOOD FOR YOU. LISTEN, WE'VE GOT SOME NEW FIRE REGULATIONS IN PLACE THIS YEAR.

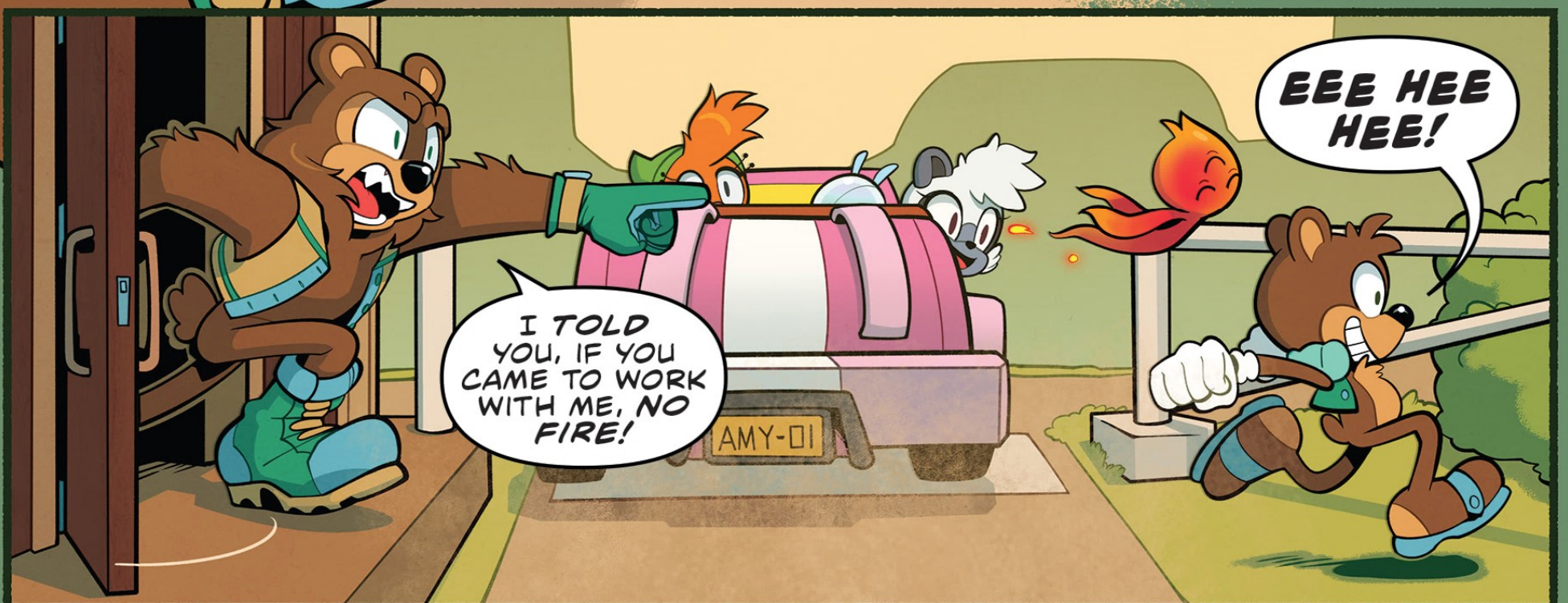


THE **METAL VIRUS** INFECTED THIS ENTIRE REGION THROUGH THE WINTER AND METAL PLANTS DON'T ABSORB **WATER**, SEE? SINCE THE AREA MISSED ITS HYDRATION LAST SEASON, WHOLE PARK IS BONE-DRY, AND SET TO GO UP.

FIRE IS ALLOWED **ONLY** IN MARKED AREAS, AND BE SURE TO FULLY DOUSE THE COALS BEFORE LEAVING THE CAMPSITE. AND NO BURNING TRASH, TAKE IT TO OVER HERE--



ASHE!



I TOLD YOU, IF YOU CAME TO WORK WITH ME, NO FIRE!

EEE HEE HEE!



HALF OF THIS IS GEOMETRY EQUATIONS... WHO WROTE THIS?

≡SIGH≡



TRY THREADING THAT POLE IN--OOF!

WUZZAT?

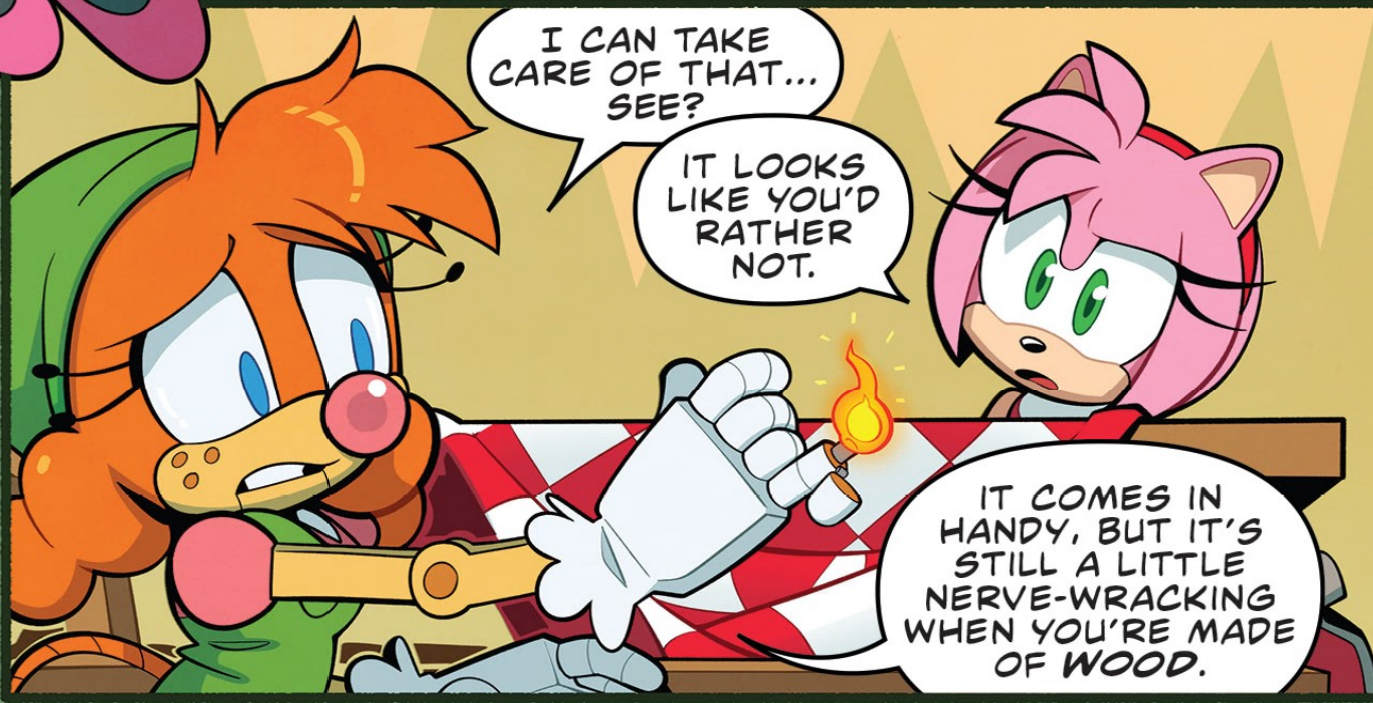
WHAP



OOH...! IT'S JUST LIKE TAILS TO PACK ALL THESE HIGH-TECH BELLS AND WHISTLES, BUT FORGET THE ESSENTIALS.

SOMETHING'S MISSING?

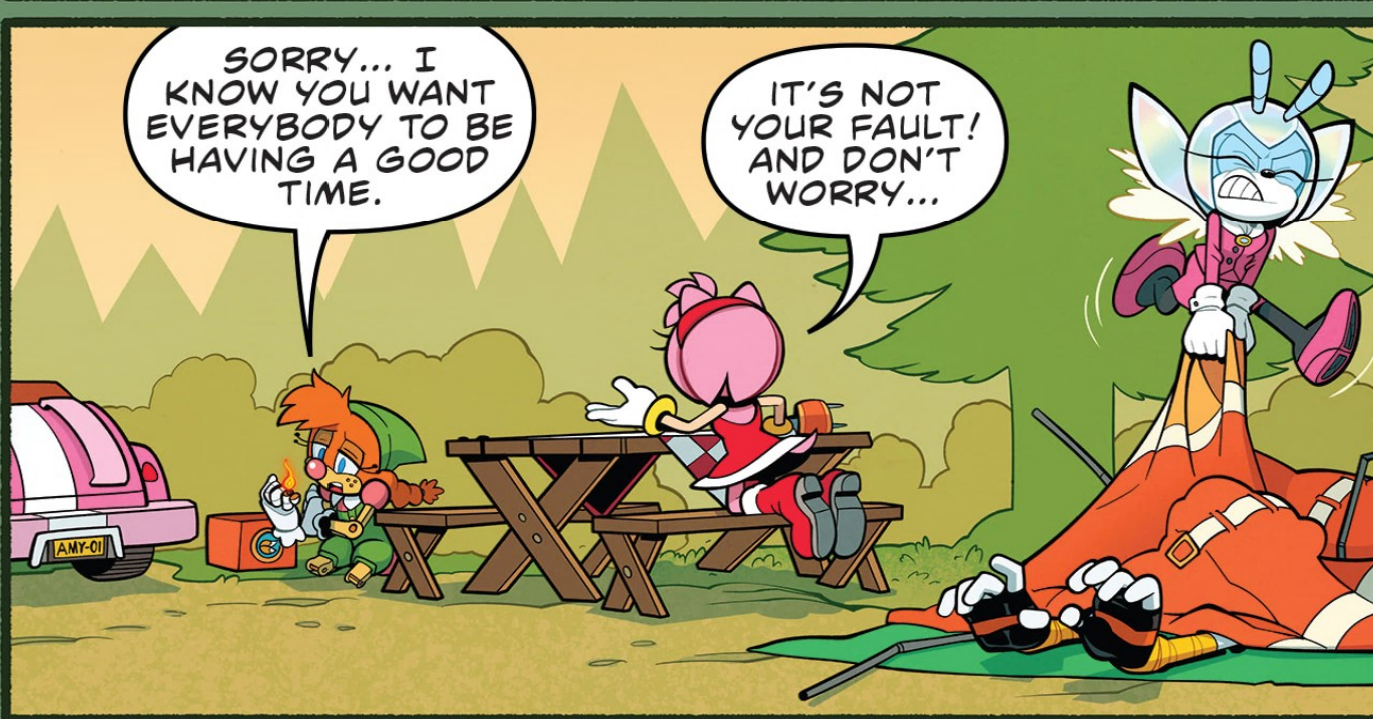
YEAH, NO MATCHES!



I CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT... SEE?

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'D RATHER NOT.

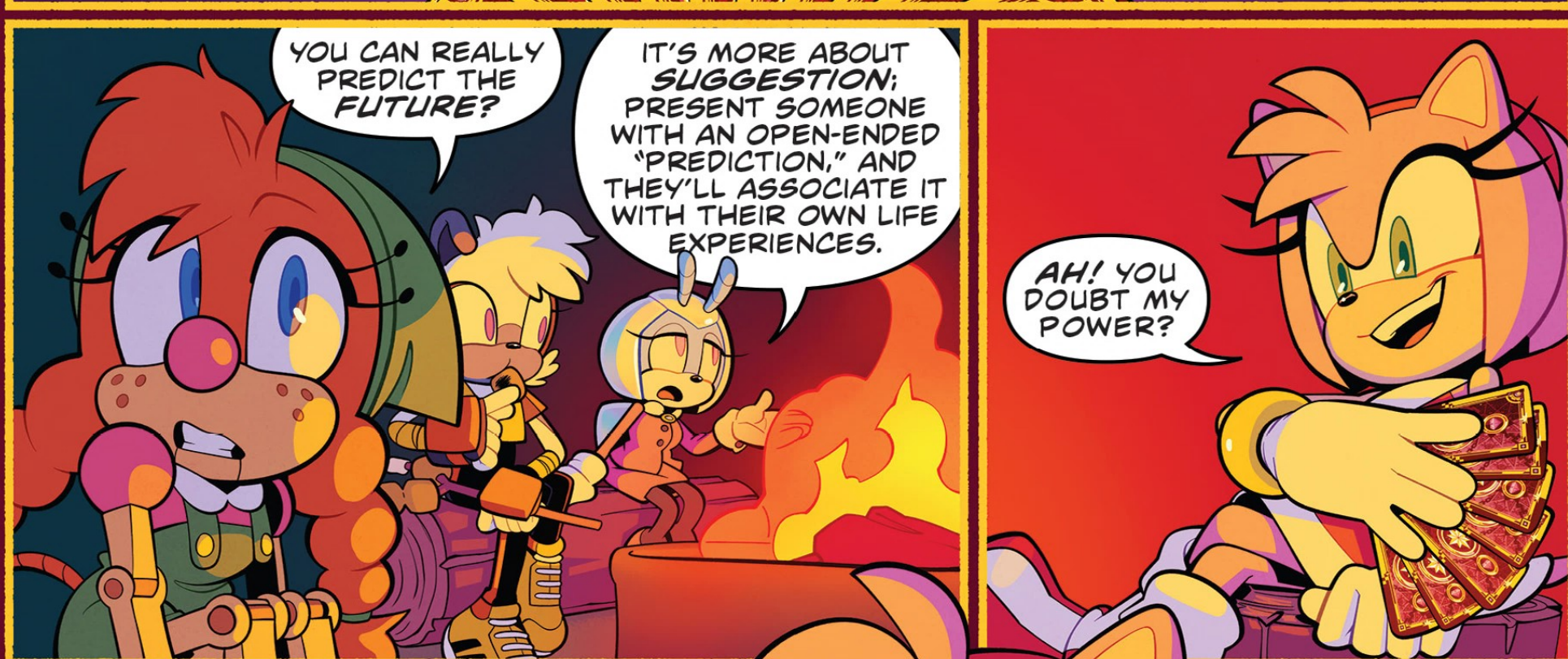
IT COMES IN HANDY, BUT IT'S STILL A LITTLE NERVE-WRACKING WHEN YOU'RE MADE OF WOOD.



SORRY... I KNOW YOU WANT EVERYBODY TO BE HAVING A GOOD TIME.

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT! AND DON'T WORRY...





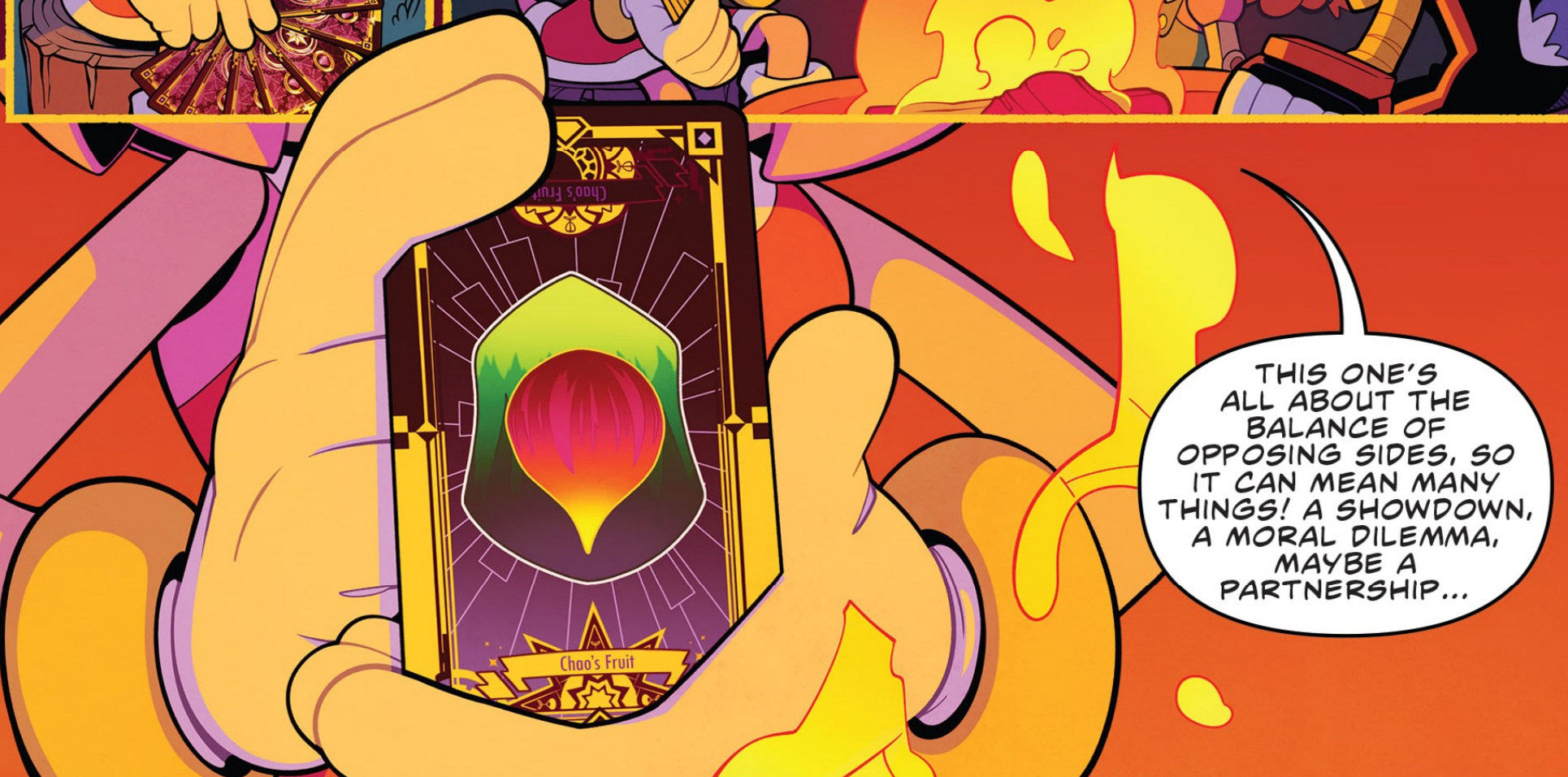




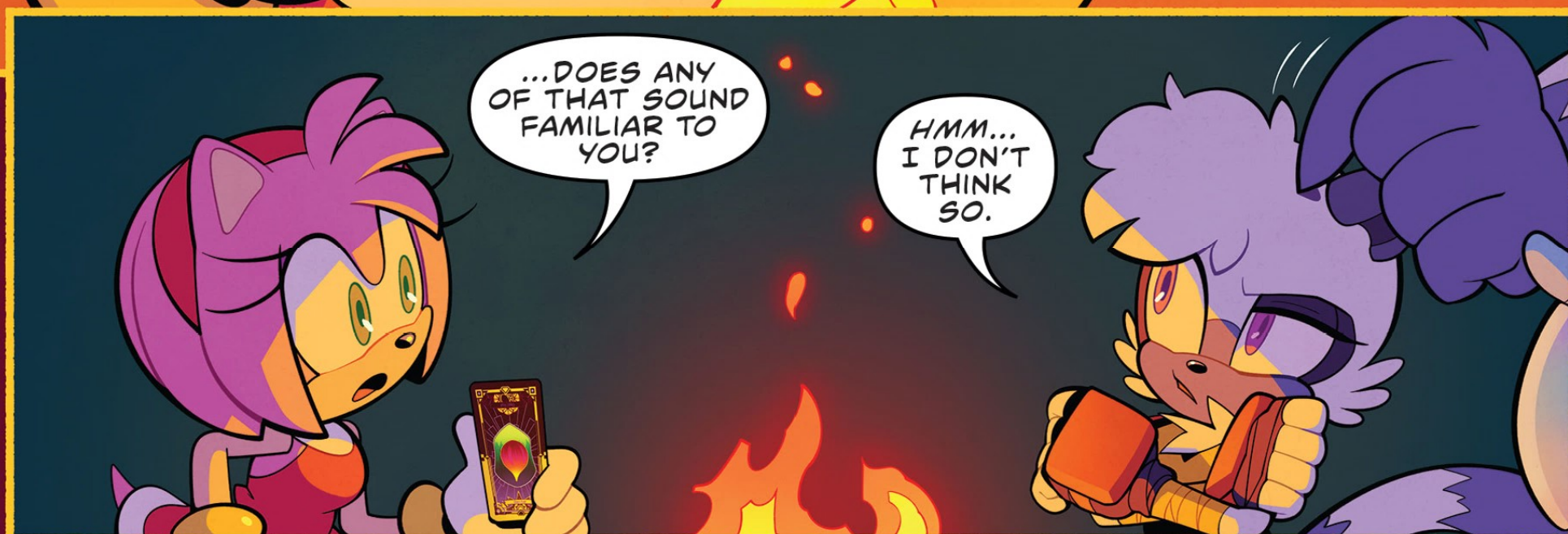
HUH! NOW THAT'S INTERESTING.

WHAT'S IT SAY?

THIS CARD IS THE CHAO'S FRUIT.



THIS ONE'S ALL ABOUT THE BALANCE OF OPPOSING SIDES, SO IT CAN MEAN MANY THINGS! A SHOWDOWN, A MORAL DILEMMA, MAYBE A PARTNERSHIP...



...DOES ANY OF THAT SOUND FAMILIAR TO YOU?

HMM... I DON'T THINK SO.



OTHER THAN THE ODD ZETI ATTACK, WE DON'T GET A WHOLE LOT OF **EXCITEMENT** AROUND RESTORATION HQ.

DO YOU... DO YOU THINK THE CARDS WORK ON ROBOTS?

OF COURSE!



AS LONG AS YOU'RE OPEN, THE CARDS WON'T STEER YOU--



!



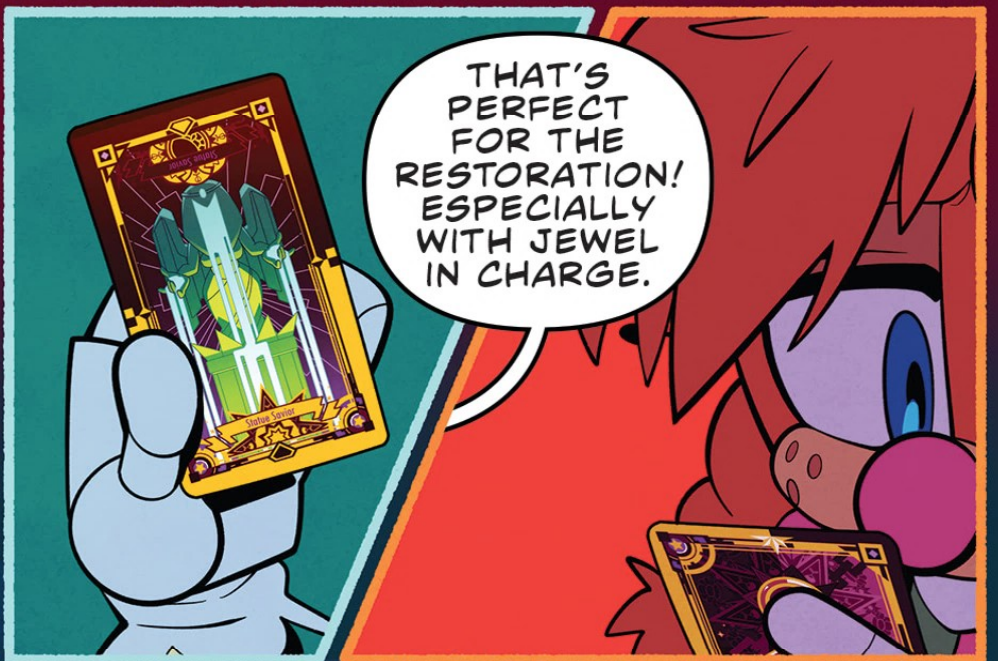
WHAT? IS THERE SOMETHING ABOUT MY DAD?

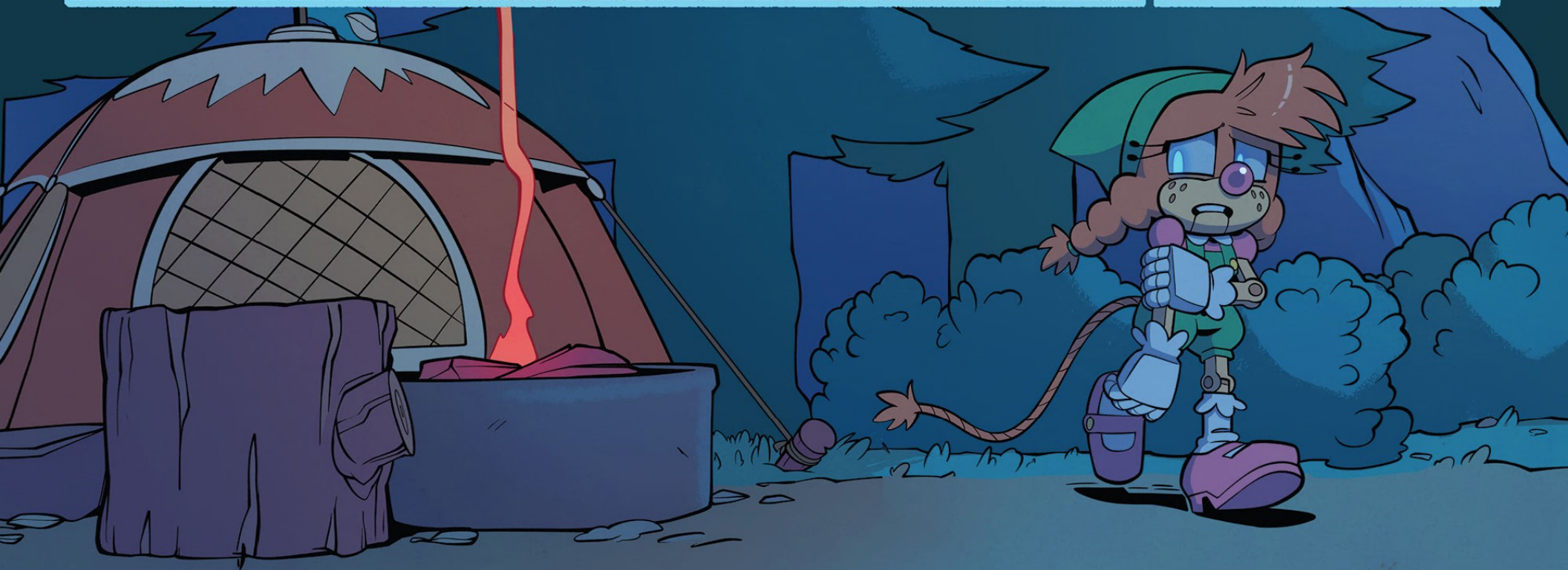
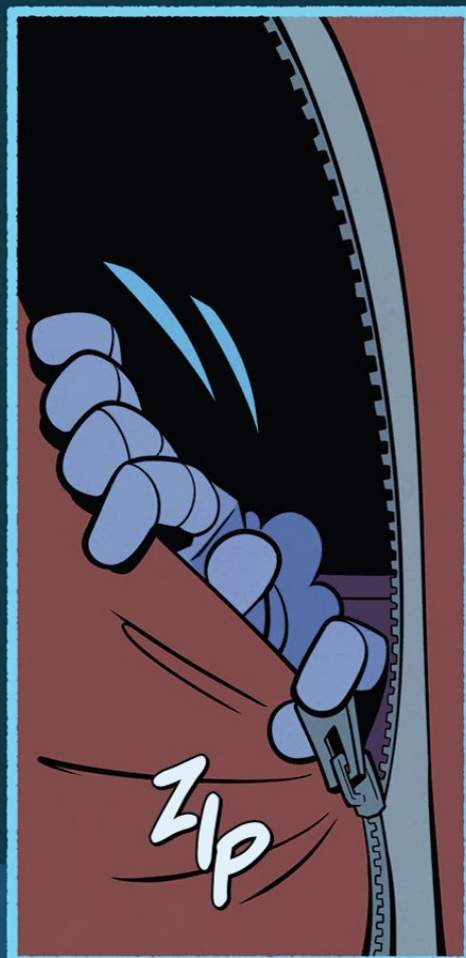


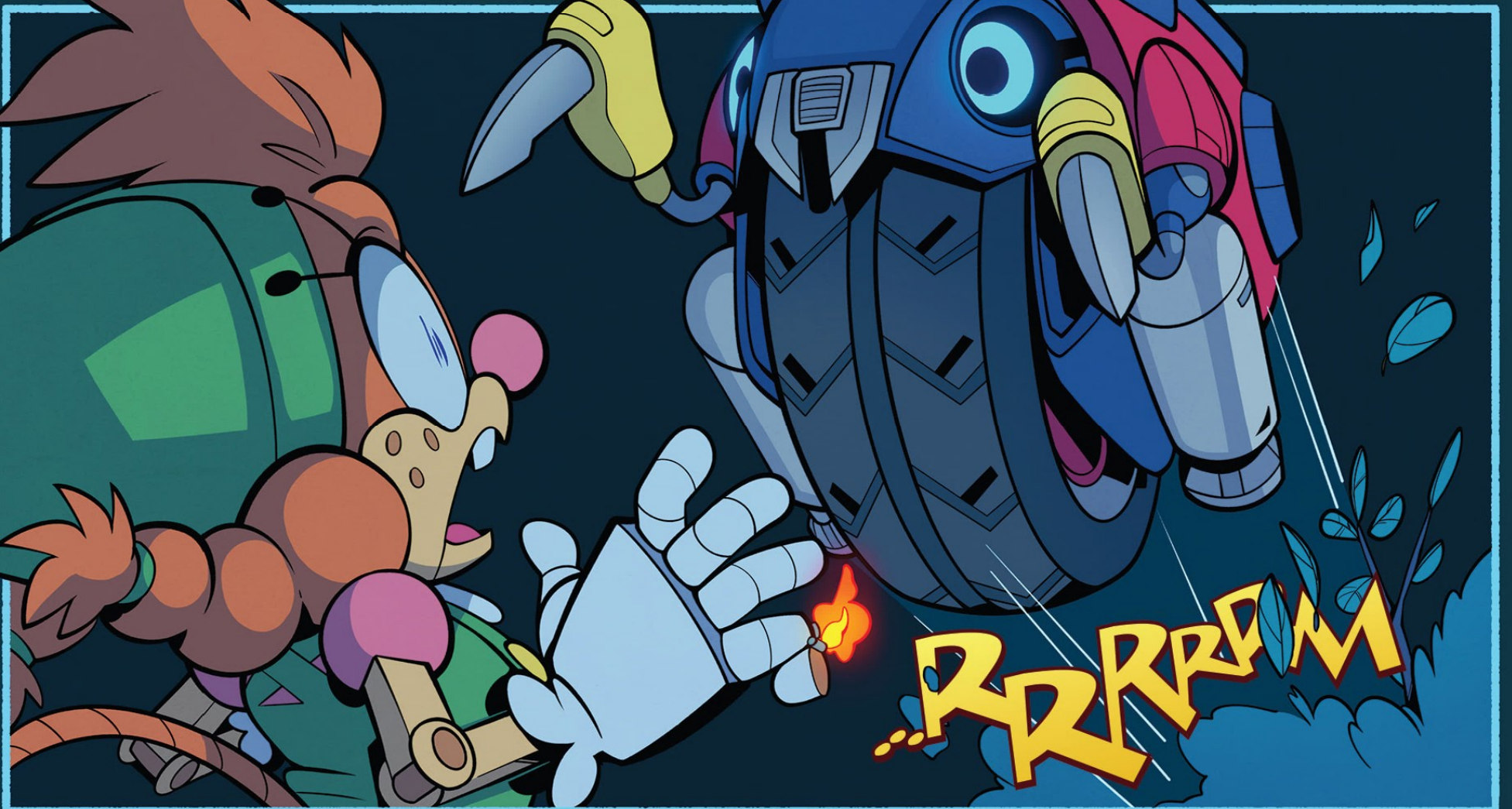
AH, HA HA! IT'S FINE, I--

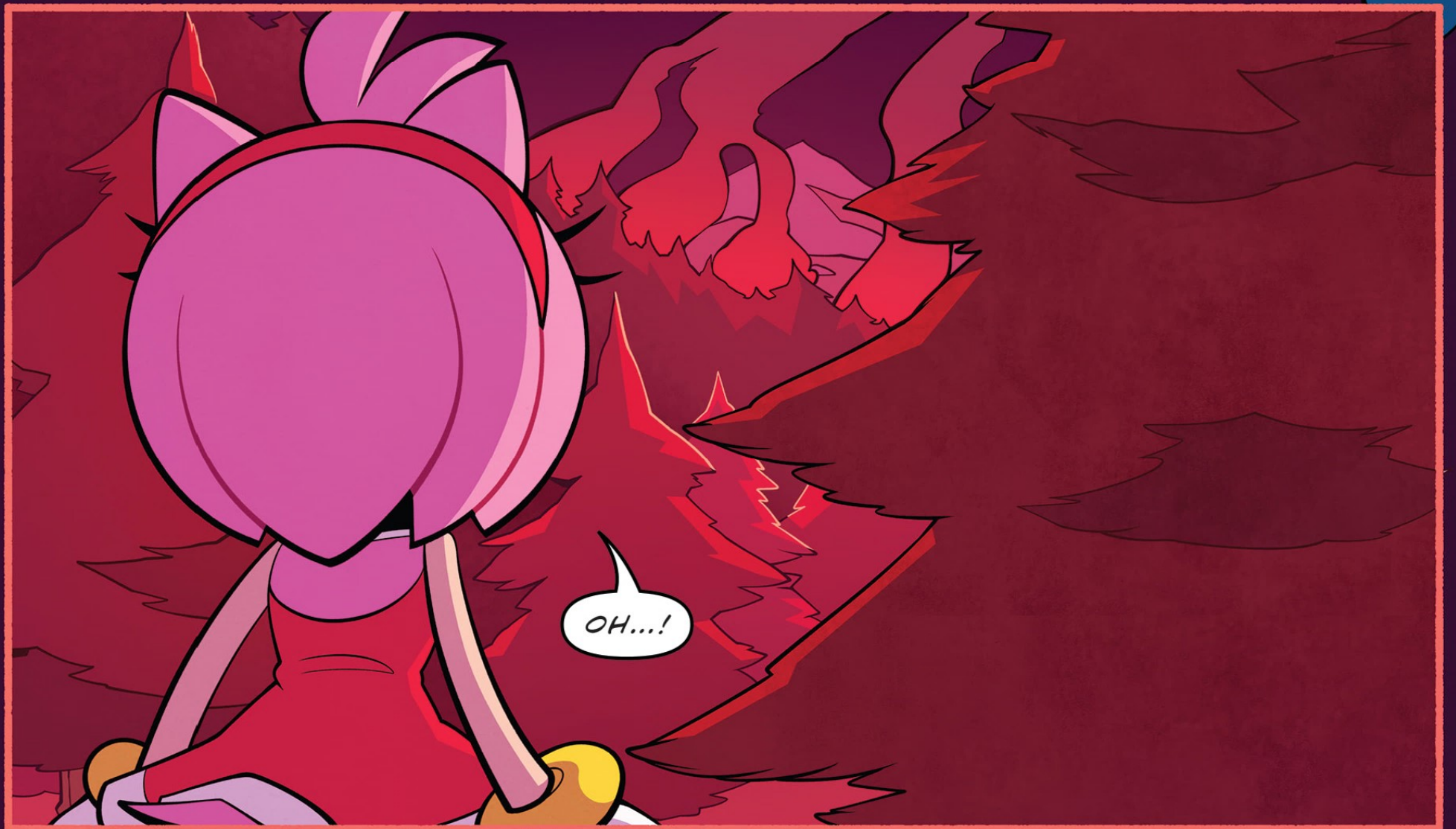
YEEK!

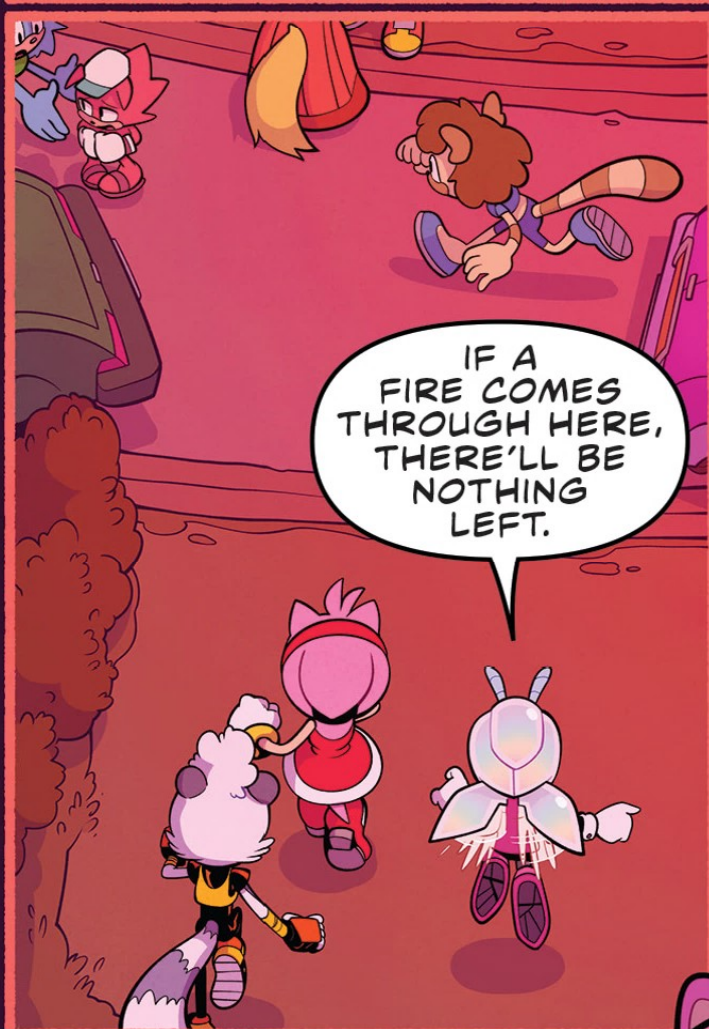
















GOOD
LUCK!

THANKS...

"...WE'RE
GONNA
NEED IT."

TO BE CONTINUED!



NEXT MONTH



SONIC

LETTERS SQUAD

Greetings, campers! Thank you for joining Evan Stanley, Matt Froese, Reggie Graham, and Shawn Lee for the first part of "Trial by Fire"! Now, the fortune cards are telling me... it's time to look at your letters and art, as well as learn a bit more about cover artist Diana Skelly!

Hello to the IDW Sonic team!

I've been a fan of the Sonic franchise for many, many years now and I can say without a doubt that this comic series is my favorite thing happening for the blue blur since it began. The writing has been absolutely superb and the art, wonderfully drawn! I've been writing an ongoing story for the past 8 years now, and IDW Sonic alone has been the biggest source of inspiration for my creativity. I'm even more inspired to write than before and am even now trying my hand at art. Still have a long way to go on that one, haha.

My favorite character in this entire series is Belle the Tinkerer. I absolutely adore her design and concept so much and love where her story has been going. Keeping my fingers crossed that once her character arc is complete that she'll stay in the rest of the series for many

years to come as a regular character. She's just so good!

Thank you to everyone on the team for giving us thousands of Sonic fans something to enjoy each month and for being my biggest inspiration. I'm incredibly grateful for everything you all do!

MSP169

Hello!

Wow! It's so lovely to hear that our comics have inspired you to create your own story. Eight years is a long amount of time to commit to a story, so I can only imagine the amount of love and passion you've put into it—I bet it's wonderful!

It's also lovely to hear that you love Belle! Original characters don't have decades of stories to build up loyalty, so when readers are excited about them, it's very heart warming. We certainly have a lot of plans for Belle and other original characters in the future, especially if fans continue to love them.

Thank you for your art and letters!

Thank you for joining us, Squad. Please don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them: "OKAY TO PRINT!" And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next month, things heat up as the girls try to extinguish the fire.



ART BY
MSP169

MSP169

CREATOR CORNER: DIANA SKELLY



What part of the Sonic comics do you create?

Mostly covers, occasionally pencils for interiors. I try to paint covers allude to events within the story without spoiling them; something faithful to the story's tone, but still hype up the story. It's cool that I get to have that much say in that when working for IDW. Many times the editor already has a design in mind or you're working before the rest of the book is finished.

Who's your favorite Sonic character in the IDW books?

Whisper. Something about a blunt, pragmatic character with a vulnerable side bounces off of other characters well. The parasocial platypus is cool too.

How do you take your chili dog?

Never had one before. I do like chili. Preferably with cheese and bacon bits sprinkled on top.

How did you first discover Sonic?

I think I discovered Sonic through reruns of [one of the Sonic the Hedgehog cartoons, distinguished by fans as] SATAM. It was very different from the games.

What was the first IDW Sonic issue you worked on?

That would be one of the variant covers for *Sonic the Hedgehog* #15. It's the one where

Amy escorts Sonic down some stairs, and Sonic's shadow is looming over Amy... You could say it was... foreshadowing. I drew the line art, Elaina Unger provided the beautiful colors.

What's a boring fact about yourself?

Evidently, one of my lower teeth has two extra nerve tendrils. This mutation changes nothing. Though, that tooth has always felt as if it were loose, despite being extra firmly rooted in my jaw.

What's your favorite comic (besides Sonic)?

Bone is definitely a classic. A blend of high fantasy and comedy, eases into more complex themes as it goes on, and it got to tell the story it wanted to tell.

What do you do when you're not drawing working on Sonic?

Recently I've taken a penchant to growing plants. I have successfully raised three passionfruit vines tall enough to reach my ceiling. They shall be fine candidates for my growing sapling army. Besides that, nature walks, cooking, visiting art galleries, and drawing exercises are some go tos.

What's the most unusual Sonic thing you own?

Shadow the Hedgehog for the Gamecube? That game certainly is a trip, there's so much going on in the game that sometimes the dramatic parts end up being funny or disorienting.

If you could go to dinner with one Sonic character, who would it be and why?

Rouge. I mean, she's had connections with every other faction and villain in the Sonic-verse at some point. That would have to lead to some interesting conversations. Plus, she likes gelato, too.

What kind of animal would you be in Sonic's universe?

Sea turtle? Pretty sure the only way to escape Eggman's tyranny at this point would be to move to a deep ocean trench. Sure, the octopuses have ears, but... EARS!



ART EVAN STANLEY



ART DIANA SKELLY



ART NATHALIE FOURDRAINE